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Atty. Docket No. P63215US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

TANIMOTO et al.

Serial No.: 09/574641

Divisional of 09/206,161,
filed December 7, 1998

Filed: ~~Herewith~~ 2-1-01

For: CLOSED HEAT-DECOMPOSING APPLIANCE,
PRETREATMENT METHOD OF SAMPLE USING IT,
ANALYTICAL METHOD AND DEVICE THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the captioned application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rewrite the following claims.

B1

2(amended) A pretreatment method of a sample comprising the steps of setting up the sample which may sometimes contain organics in [the closed] a heat-decomposing appliance [of Claim 1,] comprising, in the absence of firing means:

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- a) a heating section in the form of an axially aligned tube, open at only one of two opposing axial ends, having a length between said opposing axial ends of at least